

Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy
Course Syllabus
2019-2020

Course: Biology

Teacher: Mr. Capozzi

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Course Description:

This course in biology will allow you to discover what life is, and how it works. You will be exploring a number of core ideas in biology, and coupling these ideas to scientific and engineering practices. By developing models on how living things work and interact with their environment, you will grow in your ability to utilize the scientific skills of asking questions, defining problems, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing data, constructing explanations, and engaging in evidence-based argumentation and communication.

Units:

Below are some of the core ideas on which this course focuses.

- Matter and Energy in Living Things
- System Dynamics and Homeostasis
- Inheritance and Variation
- Natural Selection
- Biodiversity and Evolution

Grading:

There are three components to your final grade in this class – your performance, your productivity, and your effort.

- **Assessments (tests, quizzes, reports, etc.)** (*Performance*): 70% of the total course grade
- **Homework** (*Productivity*): 15% of the total course grade
- **Preparedness, class participation, and behavior** (*Effort*): 15% of the total course grade

Course Grade:

The final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

- 40% First Quarter Grade
- 40% Second Quarter Grade
- 10% Midterm Exam Grade
- 10% Final Exam Grade

Rigor:

I have high expectations for each and every student in this class. High school classes meet every day without rotation for the entire semester. It is therefore imperative that you complete all assignments and keep on top of your studying. Unless otherwise noted, homework is due to me at the **start of the class**. Late assignments *will not be accepted, and will result in a zero*. For major assignments (lab reports, research papers, projects, etc.), the late penalty is 15 points per day subtracted from the grade you achieved on the assignment.

Class Preparedness:

You are expected to come to every class with the previous night's homework completed. Be familiar with the work we've done leading up to each day's class, and be prepared to ask questions if you need clarification. You should have your notebook and a pen or pencil ready to go!

Extra Help:

I understand that science can sometimes be challenging. However, it is not impossible. Any student who works hard will succeed in this class.

Please keep in mind that my reason for being here is to help you learn. If you ever need extra help understanding a concept, or you have some questions, or you would simply like to discuss a topic beyond what we covered in class, I am available for you.

Class Website:

I have created a class website called "WhySci" to enhance our journey together through the world of biology.

Classwork is posted each morning on the Daily Lessons page in case you miss class or need to review the material.

Homework is posted each morning (go to the "Biology" tab, and click on "homework"). Therefore, if you are absent, ***your homework is still due to me the day you return!***

The website is also a great place to find study resources, science news, information about careers in science, and lots more.

Check it out at <http://whyscii.weebly.com/>

I have read, understand, and commit to adhering to the expectations of this course.

Student signature

Parent/Guardian signature